

FROM THE "CELL TO THE WORLD

her soul overwhelmed by that impassioned dream of a reformation of the Church down to its very foundations—infinio alle fondamenta, to use her own words—which is soon to lead her across the Alps, the ambassador of Christ as well as of Florence, the maiden image of the Italian people, to reconcile the Pope with Italy, to bring him back to Rome.

It was early in 1372 that Catherine first addressed a letter to Cardinal d'Estaing, opening with a play upon the words *legato* and *Legato*, which it is impossible to render in English. "Dearest and reverend father in Christ sweet Jesus," she begins ; "I, Catherine, servant and slave of the servants of Jesus Christ, write to you in His precious blood, with the desire of seeing you bound in the bond of charity even as you have been made Legate in Italy,¹ as I have heard, and at which I have been greatly and singularly delighted, considering that by this you will be able to do much for the honour of God and the weal of Holy Church. But you know that we can effect no work of grace in ourselves, nor for our neighbour, without charity ; charity is that sweet and holy bond which binds the soul with her Creator ; it bound God in man and man in God. This inestimable charity kept God and Man fastened and nailed upon the wood of the most holy Cross." It is charity alone that unites the separated, enriches the poor in virtue, makes wars to cease, gives patience and perseverance, and can never be shaken, because it is founded on the living Rock, on Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Bound in this love, let the representative of the Sovereign Pontiff follow in the footsteps of Christ:—

"I would have you then, like a true son and
servant bought
back by the blood of Christ crucified, follow His
footsteps, with
manly heart and ready zeal, never turning aside by
reason either
of pain or pleasure, but persevering even to the
end in this, and
in every other work which you undertake to
do for Christ
crucified. Strive to extirpate the iniquities and
the miseries of
the world, which come from the many sins that men
commit, by

which the name of God is shamed; do your
utmost, as one

¹ *Legato nellegamt dcta cantb si come
setefotto Legato.*